

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend paragraphs 0022 and 0024 of the specification as follows.

[0022] In another exemplary embodiment in accordance with Figs 9-11, the hollow section 34 is slotted at two diametrically opposite points to form openings 35 and 36 (Fig. 9). A preferably flat reinforcing plate 37 (Fig. 10) is then inserted through this slot formed by the openings 35 and 36. This plate is then welded to the hollow section 34 in the openings ~~35 and 37~~ 35 and 36 (Fig. 11). The advantage in this variant is to be regarded as the fact that the hollow section 34 remains completely closed. It is thus impossible for spray or dirt to penetrate and thus have a corrosive effect. The reinforcing plate 37 furthermore has no welding flanges, thus saving materials and production costs. Given appropriate dimensioning of the reinforcing plate 37, the shape of the hollow section 34 moreover remains unaffected.

[0024] As a further additional reinforcement, it is conceivable to stamp beads into the reinforcing plate before insertion into the opening. The reinforcing plates can be u-shaped, v-shaped or even z-shaped. Instead of joining by welding, adhesive bonding or, in the case of a U- or V-shaped section, even ~~Tex~~ TOX clinching can be employed. It is, of course, an advantage here that the punch used to insert the section can form the counterpunch for ~~Tex~~ TOX clinching.